Revision of Royalty

†598* SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision in law for the revision of royalty after three years;

(b) if so, when the royalty was fixed payable on coal last time; and

(c) by when his Ministry would review the royalty on coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Section 9 (3) of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation), Act 1957 empowers the Central Government to enhance or reduce the royalty rates in respect of any mineral by notification in the Official Gazette with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification. However, provisio to Section 9 (3) of the Act prevents the Central Government from enhancing the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The Act does not mandate that royalty on coal should be revised after every three years.

The royalty rates on coal were last revised on 16.08.2002 and the next revision can be effected only after 15.08.2005.

Issue of China-Bangladesh Nuclear Ties

*599. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India did not raise the issue of China-Bangladesh nuclear ties with the Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao during his visit to India, recently; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) China and Bangladesh have stated that their cooperation in the field of nuclear energy is for peaceful use and in keeping with their commitments to the international non-proliferation regimes and the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Government remain vigilant with regard to further development in the matter.

Guiding Principles between India and China

*600. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have clinched a set of "guiding principles" on how to address their border dispute following a meeting between special representative of China and India;

(b) whether China has presented a newly printed official map that shows Sikkim as part of India;

(c) if so, whether India has accepted this new map and whether China still claims Arunachal as their own territory; and

(d) if so, whether any border issue has been finalized during the Prime Minister of China's visit to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have noted the correct depiction of Sikkim as part of the territory of India in the revised map published by China. Government do not accept wrong depiction of Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh in the Chinese maps.

China considers Arunachal Pradesh as a disputed territory and illegally claims 90,000 square kilometres of India territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China border areas.

(d) The "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundry Question" was